

## STIRRED BY SERMON

Plea of Evangelist Smith Wins Many Converts.

## ADDRESSES MASS MEETING

Almost Four Thousand Men Listen to New York Evangelist Secretary in Convention Hall—Singing of J. J. Virgo, of Sydney, Australia, Excellent Feature of the Session.

More eloquent pleas may have been made from the speaker's platform of Convention Hall than that which Fred B. Smith, of New York, evangelist secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, yesterday hurled at the heads of almost 4,000 men, who filled every seat and stood in the gallery of that edifice. But few addresses, however, have been more prolific of tangible results than this one of Mr. Smith, when, at the end of a great plea for a Christian life and a belief in God that shall actuate that life, Mr. Smith asked for those who desired that the meeting pray for them, and who were willing to show that they felt that Jesus Christ had become a thing of reality to them, to stand while the audience sang "I Need Thee Every Hour," several hundred men answered the summons.

In all parts of the hall men and boys rose and showed that the words of the speaker were not in vain. In the gallery above, those who already stood lifted hands high above their heads, to signify, too, their conversion to Jesus Christ. To all of these the speaker, stretching out his arms in benediction, gave his blessing and thanks for this token of good done by his words.

At the end of the meeting all those who had answered this call of the secretary crowded forward to the platform, gave their names and addresses to assistants, and shook hands with this man who had shown them the light of life.

It was probably the climax of the evangelistic campaign, for under the roof of the hall more people were gathered together and more sincere expressions of conversion than have at any previous meetings of this sort.

Singing by Mr. Virgo. The meeting was a spirited one from the start to the end. The singing of J. J. Virgo, general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Sydney, Australia, was one of the features, and he was received in the solo, "Tell Me the Old Story," with a long outburst of applause. Commissioner H. B. F. Macfarland, in the beginning of the meeting proper, alluded to the great work done by the Washington association. Mr. Macfarland said that this local organization has four secretaries in the field: F. S. Brockman, secretary for China and Korea; Carl C. Rutledge, secretary for Hongkong; A. H. G. Smith, secretary for India, and Fred B. Smith, of New York, secretary in the United States. The prayer preceding the talk by Mr. Smith was by James J. Vance, of Newark, N. J., while a prayer was made afterward by Robert Freeman.

In beginning his address Mr. Smith said that he heard long since that the three greatest orations ever uttered by man, were those by Moses, Jesus, and Paul. He said that when he heard a great scholar, Professor Moulton, of Chicago, make this statement, he did not comprehend how it might be true, but that by searching in those three orations he had found the reason. Mr. Smith said that he was going to speak on the basis of his talk a sentence from one of those orations, "Beware, lest you forget God."

Why Men Forget God. The speaker said that one of the reasons why the men of this country are forgetting God is that they are too busy at them so continuously. He said that another is because the country is so overbearingly prosperous that men think when they have attained to wealth and power, that it has been done by the strength of their own arms alone. Consequently, they forget God, and as they go upward in a material way, they grow further away from God and religion.

He said that another reason for the truth that men of this country are forgetting God is that it has been so apparently easy to do wrong in high places and go unpunished. He said that there were hundreds of other potential grafters and thieves and criminals in that audience—or would be if they did not listen to the voice of the Creator asking them to be saved.

"The two greatest sins which I know," said Dr. Smith, "are not murder or robbery or lust or any of those crimes that men hold to be the worst of all, but ingratitude and selfishness are the two worst of all, to my mind. Ingratitude I consider the lesser of these. But if I were asked which man I should prefer to trust, the sinner or the ungrateful man, I should name the former."

Selfishness the Greatest Sin. "Selfishness is the worst sin. It is selfishness for men to desire to live this life without professing their belief in the God that is all powerful. It is selfishness to depart from the religion of your ancestors—when that is the Christian religion—and leave your children no such groundwork of nobility of character as your parents left to you."

"Beware, lest you forget God." Then Mr. Smith asked those who had professed their belief in Christ to stand. Thousands stood and testified to their belief. Then he requested those who had been touched by his remarks, who felt that at that hour they had grown closer to Christ and that they desired to come still closer, to rise. Hundreds more got upon their feet.

After the singing of several songs, while those who had professed their conversion flocked to the platform, Dr. Robert Johnson, of Toronto, led in prayer, the benediction was pronounced, and the meeting ended.

## SERMON BY DR. LATSHAW.

Ohioan Preaches to Large Congregation at Foundry Church.

"Fishers of Men" was the subject of an address by Rev. David Latshaw, of Dayton, Ohio, at a meeting for men held at Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church, Sixteenth and Church streets northwest, last night. A crowd which taxed the capacity of the large edifice attended the meeting. Dr. Latshaw spoke of the methods by which religion comes to every man. He said that every one had the same opportunity to gain the religious belief.

"Religion knocks at the door of us all," he said, "but every one does not accept it when it comes. The Lord does not force it upon you; he merely puts it in your path, and if you do not take the right road it is your own fault." Continuing on the same line, he said that belief in God was the essential necessity of a good man. "If a man believes in God and other teachings of the faith," he said, "and will follow the things he does believe, whether or not he is a Christian, he will be good."

Dr. Latshaw said that he could not understand why, in this enlightened age, men did not give themselves up to Jesus Christ.

## INTERSTATE SECRETARY.



George F. Tibbitts Looks after men in Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

## THOUSANDS ATTEND Y. M. C. A. SERVICES

Continued from Page One.

hold their regular exercises last night, and to this request most of them consented.

Beginning with a devotional service this morning in D. A. R. Hall, the delegates will continue to-day their programme of work for all classes. Addresses by prominent men in the morning and afternoon will be capped by an address by William Jennings Bryan in the evening in Convention Hall. Much of the same evangelistic work that made yesterday a notable one in Y. M. C. A. circles will be continued to-day, and the same good results are expected thereby.

Among the speakers this morning will be three from foreign lands; one of these from Switzerland, another from London, and the third from Japan. In the afternoon Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, will tell of the association work among the working classes, while in the evening Mr. Bryan will tell of the influence of Christ in the life of man.

## Convention Hall Exercises.

The first speaker of last evening in D. A. R. Hall was Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall, D. D., of New York, who spoke on "The Essential Unity of the Human Race Realized in Jesus Christ." Dr. Hall, a forceful speaker, traced the unity of the race in its religion. He told of the times when, in the early days of Rome, the Christians were accused of the burning of the city. He said that, even after it was proved that the Christians had not committed such an act, they were persecuted anyway, and it was said that they were the enemies of the whole human race.

Almost identical, he said, is the feeling among Oriental peoples to-day. They regard the Christian people and their missionaries as the people who desire to rule from ulterior motive. They believe that the Christian is not bringing them religion for their good, but for his own advantage.

Dr. Hall said that it is sure, however, that religion and Christianity will ultimately bring to these strange people of the East a clear conception of what Christianity is. He said that this work will be the work of the Y. M. C. A., which knows no creed or dogma, but is the great mingling of men of all religions.

The next speaker was F. S. Brockman, secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association for China and Korea. Mr. Brockman said that his work was now being done in that great nation of the East. He told how he had watched boatload after boatload of delegates to the great meeting of Christian students in Tokyo last spring. He told of the 15,000 Chinese students who were there, and said that among these men is the work of the Y. M. C. A. needed. He said that here the seed of a great movement, which can uplift all China, may be planted.

Address by Mr. Mott. John R. Mott, one of the secretaries of the Y. M. C. A., introduced by the president, Judge Selden P. Spencer, of St. Louis, as "of the world," spoke briefly on what Mr. Brockman had just told the delegates. Mr. Mott said that he too had seen the work among these students in China. He said there can be no greater field for Y. M. C. A. men than there. There, he said, is an opportunity for Christianity to invade a territory and gain it for religion.

Men, he said, and money, are needed to carry this work on, to bring religion to the 400,000,000 people in China must require missionaries and workers. He commended the fact that this work of reaching the students of the Chinese Empire has been delegated by the representatives of all the denominations to the Y. M. C. A. He said that it should now make good.

With a great and eloquent belief mingled in the address of the last speaker, Dr. W. T. Grenfell, of Labrador, Mr. Grenfell, the man who left what was certain to have become one of the great medical practices in London to go out among the fishermen in that cold, north coast. Out into that country, where dwellings are miles apart, where food in winter is scarce and precious; where shelter is rare, but where the healing hand of a physician is sorely needed every day in the year.

The Compensation of Service. Dr. Grenfell told simply of the way he had been convinced that a life of service is the only life to live. He was assigned, he said, the topic of "Compensation of Service," and his compensation had been "service." He said that he has found the dimmers of Labrador, which would hardly be bearable to those unaccustomed to them, were to him better than the great dinner of a New York chamber of commerce to which he sat down a few days since. He said that he left his home in London to go thousands of miles away, with the consent of his mother. She had the knowledge, he said, that he might not come back, but allowed him to go in this service.

The morning session in D. A. R. Hall was concerned principally with the address of Rev. Robert Johnston, D. D., of Montreal, Canada. Dr. Johnston spoke on "The Holy Spirit—the source of continued and increasing vitality of the Young Men's Christian Association."

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## SEEN AT THE CONVENTION

Many Noted Men at the Y. M. C. A. Gathering.

For the meeting at Convention Hall to-night, at which William J. Bryan and Robert E. Speer are to speak, admission will be by ticket only. Besides the regular delegates' and visitors' cards, special tickets for the use of the public have been issued and distributed up to the capacity of the hall. The distribution of tickets has been in charge of Mr. George F. Tibbitts, at the main building of the Young Men's Christian Association. The meeting will begin at 7:30 o'clock, and seats will not be held after 8 o'clock.

One of the best attended of last night's meetings was that held at Calvary Baptist Church, where a thousand men gathered to hear Bishop William F. McDowell, of Chicago. Vice President Fairbanks was in the audience. The bishop spoke from the text, "He came to his own and his own received him"—omitting the final word "not," as it occurs in John's Gospel. That word, he suggested, must have been added with great reluctance by the apostle. He presented the thought that man was born not for wickedness, but for higher and nobler things, and that Christ came to save from the former and to help to attain the latter.

Mr. Takeji Komatsu, one of the Japanese national Y. M. C. A. secretaries, is an example of how Christianity is reaching the young men of Japan. When questioned as to how he came to adopt the Christian religion, and to take up the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, he told of the events leading up to his change of faith.

He was born in a Nichiren Buddhist family, and often went to the temple in his childhood, as his father was "the chief believer," and his grandmother was very devout, "but," he added, "of course I went only to play and to be amused." After graduating from the primary school he was at home three years, and tried to pass the examination as teacher for common school, but failed. He then went to Tohoku Gakuin, a Christian school in Sendai, and supported himself at the industrial home department of the school.

"My faculty," Mr. Komatsu, "were vehemently opposed to my entering the Christian religion, because they thought I would be converted to Christianity, but I assured them that I would not, simply intending to study; but among my fellow students the Christians were noticeably kind and were the most faithful in their work, and the principal, Mr. Oshikawa, was very kind to me, and at the same time they did not hesitate to make some sport of me."

"After five years at Tohoku Gakuin I entered Sendai Koto Gakko, and then the Imperial Training College, Tokyo. My faith kept growing stronger. During these years my ambition was to be either a teacher or a writer or a self-supporting pastor, but just before my graduation from the university the record secretary, Mr. Hirazawa, asked if I would not take the national secretariatship, which was just then vacant. I consented, but only with the intention of staying on at Tokyo. My faith kept growing stronger. During these years my ambition was to be either a teacher or a writer or a self-supporting pastor, but just before my graduation from the university the record secretary, Mr. Hirazawa, asked if I would not take the national secretariatship, which was just then vacant. I consented, but only with the intention of staying on at Tokyo. My faith kept growing stronger. 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